

a1  
cont

The bushing components typically utilize pin type connections in double shear type hangers and shackles. Traditionally, leaf spring bushings include an elastomeric core that is confined by an outer metal sleeve. Such bushings conventionally have three layers, including an inner metal sleeve (or pin), the elastomeric core and the outer metal sleeve. The bushings are typically installed or assembled into each leaf spring eye located at opposite ends of the leaf spring to permit connection with the frame hangers and/or shackles.

---

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 1, 8, 14, and 18 as follows:

---

a2

1. (Amended) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore ~~separate and distinct from~~ said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a groove portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component, said ribbed portion of said bushing being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said suspension component.

---

a3

8. (Amended) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion

a3  
cont having a grooved portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component, said ribbed portion of said suspension component being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said bushing.

---

a4  
14. (Amended) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a protrusion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a slot portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component, said protrusion of said bushing being adapted to fit within said slot of said suspension component.

---

a5  
18. (Amended) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a protrusion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion; and

as  
cont  
a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore  
separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second  
opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a  
hole positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of  
said suspension component, said protrusion of said bushing being  
adapted to fit within said hole of said suspension component.

---